



Youth Vision Society

REPORT

After School Program

2011 - 2012

1. Details of the Partner Organization

- 1.1 **Name of Organization:** Youth Vision Society (YV)
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2. Report Details

- 3.1 **Date of submission:** March 10th, 2011
3.2 **Written by:** Belal Al Shaer
3.3 **Covering the period:** August 5th, 2011 - March 5th, 2012

3. Project Details

- 2.1 **Project Name:** After School Program .
2.2 **Implementing Period:** August 5th , 2011 to March 5th, 2012
2.3 **Donor:** British Consulate in Jerusalem
2.4 **Final Beneficiaries:** 6 teachers, 240 Students and 240 parents.

4. Original Aims of the Project

1. To improve and increase the quality of education for the young schools students in the most difficult subjects through implementing after school program and extra curricular activities that could help underachievers.
2. Raise the awareness of the importance of education.
3. To improve the financial status of 6 newly unemployed graduates;
4. To better equip parents with the importance of education as well as child protection mechanisms through the awareness-raising meetings; and
5. To educate and raise the awareness students, the project targeted, about their rights.

5. Implemented Activities

Project start up:

- cooperation and networking with the civil society to assist in conducting the project activities.
- launching the project through advertising it in newspaper and local CBOs/NGOs in Gaza City.
- Setting certain criteria of the selection of the target group .
- Procurement all stationery and material necessary for the implementation of the project activities.

Implementation of project activities:

- Selection of target group (students with learning difficulties). Students were divided into 16 groups in two shifts: morning shift (60 students) and noon shift (60 students). Each shift targeted Four groups (15 students per each).
- Setting a placement test to assess students' level and their needs accordingly.
- Implementation of remedial classes for 240 students.
- Implementation of monthly exams to identify any progress children had made.
- Conduct mid-term and final exams to evaluate students' progress.
- 12 follow-up meetings with the teachers to determine the obstacles they have faced, solutions and achievements.
- 3 meetings with children's parents or caregivers to measure the impact of the project activities on children.

Monitoring and evaluation:

- 12 focus groups conducted by the monitoring team with a sample of teachers in order to guarantee that the project activities meet with the desired goals and objectives.
- 25 individual interviews with a sample of parents and teachers were conducted so as to find out any changes or progress on children's educational level.

6. Problems & Solution

Problem :students absence from some periods as a result of urgent circumstances
Solution : make up classes for these students

Problems : students cutting classes without parents knowing
Solution : field visits to the parents to stimulate them and support them to commit

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

The project adopted a clear methodology of monitoring; teachers showed a considerable interest respecting homework and weekly assessment for the students' performance. Besides, monthly tested were conducted to recognize the indicators of performance. The student's families were usually put in the frame by reporting them about their sons' outcome. Meanwhile, the organization paid much attention to monitor the teachers' performance, attendance, and adherence.

In addition, follow up meetings with students' parents and teachers were held to measure the impact of the project activities on students. Not only follow up meetings to find out progress on children's educational level, but focus groups and individual interviews were held.

8. Lessons learned/Challenges

- focus on the media coverage is an essential need and emphasis on publishing brochures, and publications to effectively give information about the project and its activities. As it is difficult to reach all the children and the caregivers, the media tools, brochures, publications, promotions on the radio are the effective way to guarantee that the services will reach a large number of the children and the caregivers and in the same time will increase the number of the target groups
- The project's activities are so huge, therefore it is needed to increase the project staff to fully and effectively cover the process of work and give a clear feedback for the teachers to improve the quality of the work.
- The new Palestinian curriculum is, in fact, beyond students' abilities, plus the shortage of time in school requires exerting much more efforts by teachers to overcome this problem.
- It is important also to increase the number of qualified teachers with the importance of only including the elites to work in future projects. Moreover, teachers need more child protection and psychosocial-focused training.
- The duration of remedial classes and psychosocial sessions are too few. Accordingly, duration of intervention for remedial classes would have increased the learning in the formal group.
- Students Playing and side talking during the sessions is Such a problem that was treated by providing psychological activities to students, and undertaking some extracurricular activities, when needed.
- Regular blackouts negatively affected the quality of the activities, especially that the good classroom should be well lit.
- A lot of people were heading to the center to get benefit from the project during the action, but it was difficult to recognize a larger number than specified.

9. Results/outcomes of the Project

- 240 students from the basic stage have improved their skills and knowledge in Math, Arabic and English subjects they were bad at;
- 240 students participated in the psychosocial support sessions that improved their psychosocial well-being;
- 6 unemployed teachers improved their economic situation;
- A professional project team of teachers and monitoring staff ready to provide outreach and emergency educational and psychosocial support to children and their parents following any distressing event;
- A platform for coordination, peer support and experience sharing provided to the project staff;
- 240 parents participated in the awareness-raising meetings and better equipped to follow up their students' educational level, plus dealing with their children in crises;
- Financial burdens on families alleviated, since it costs much money for tutoring;
- Most of students' parents participated in the follow up meetings stated that the project activities have a positive impact on their children;
- The majority of teachers participated in the follow up meetings and focus groups said that the project activities meet with the desired goals and objectives;
- most of parents and teachers participated in the interviews expressed their satisfaction over the positive changes or progress on students' educational level.

10. Success Stories

Based on the successful outcomes of this project, through which a well-equipped remedial classes center is established, YVS managed to receive different grants with different donors such as Mercy Corps to support similar projects.

Most of the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the project emphasized the importance of consistency of such projects.

11. Attachments

- 1- Criteria of the selection of the target group.
- 2- Action Plan of the program
- 3- Weekly Plan of Classes.
- 4- Activities Pictures .
- 5- Financial Report .

Signature: Belal Al Shaer

Date report sent: 13/03/2012